

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 12, 2006. The following claims are pending in the application: Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, and 16 to 18. Claims 1, 5 and 9 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

All claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,122,403 (Rhoads). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested, as explained more fully below.

The invention relates to a camera which is arranged to generate image data corresponding to a captured image as well as specific information relating to the image data. The image data and the specific information are recorded on a removable recording medium, and both of the image data and the specific information are reproducible from the removable recording medium. According to one aspect of the invention, and in dependence on whether a first process has been selected by a user, the specific information is embedded into the image data reproduced from the removable recording medium. Conversely, in response to selection of a second process by the user, the specific information is not embedded.

Thus, according to the invention, the recording medium is a removable recording medium that is removably attachable to the camera device. The specific information is information that relates to image data that is generated in correspondence to a captured image. Both the specific information and the image data are recorded to the

removable recording medium. Responsive to selection of a first process, specific information reproduced from the removable recording medium is embedded into the image data reproduced from the removable recording medium; and conversely, responsive to selection of a second process, the specific information reproduced from the recording medium is not embedded into the image data reproduced from the removable recording medium.

The foregoing features are not seen to be disclosed or suggested by the cited patent to Rhoads. Rhoads relates to a personal computer which executes a watermark-embedding process using a user's input information, and thus is distinct from a camera device and from use of a removable recording medium which is removably attachable to such a camera device. Rhoads is also not seen to disclose or to suggest the embedding of specific information reproduced from a removable recording medium into image data reproduced from the removable recording medium in response to selection of a first process by a user, as well as the non-embedding of specific information reproduced from the recording medium into image data reproduced from the removable recording medium responsive to selection of a second process.

In this latter regard, the Office Action focused on the "OK" and the "Abort" processes described at column 73 of Rhoads. According to the Office Action, these processes corresponded to the claimed processes of embedding and not embedding specific information. As Applicant sees it, however, if the user in Rhoads selects the "Abort" process, then no information whatsoever is reproduced. Accordingly, the "Abort" process of Rhoads could not possibly correspond to the claimed non-embedding arrangement, since

even if the user selects a second process, there is still a result that image data is reproduced from the removable recording medium.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims herein are not anticipated by the patent to Rhoads, and withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection is respectfully requested.

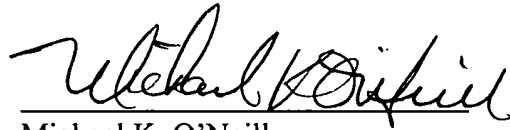
REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

It is respectfully requested that an interview be conducted in this case, prior to issuance of a next Office Action. In keeping with this Request, and so as to facilitate scheduling of the interview, this Preliminary amendment has been filed together with an RCE that includes a Request for Suspension of Action for Three Months.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", written over a horizontal line.

Michael K. O'Neill
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 32,622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 121702v1